

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 00701 170719Z

20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /058 W

----- 064480

R 170615Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6160

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0701

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ID

SUBJ: TRIAL OF "POP" MAGAZINE EDITOR FOR CRIMINAL

LIBEL OF SUHARTO OPENS

REF: A. JAKARTA A-187 10/6/74 B. JAKARTA 003

1. SUMMARY: THE EDITOR OF POP MAGAZINE, REY HANITIO, HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN JAKARTA ON CHARGES OF PUBLISHING A DEFAMATORY ARTICLE LAST OCTOBER WHICH CLAIMED THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO IS OF ROYAL BIRTH (REF A). AT THE OPENING SESSION ON JANUARY 15, HANITIO DENIED THE INDICTMENT, WHICH CLAIMED AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THE POP ARTICLE CREATED MISTRUST TOWARD THE PRESIDENT, AND THEREFORE AGAINST THE STATE. THE TRIAL AGAINST HANITIO--AN OBSCURE 35-YEAR-OLD JOURNALIST--IS APPARENTLY SYMBOLIC OF A LARGER AND STILL OBSCURE POLITICAL DRAMA WHICH BEGAN WHEN SUHARTO EXPLODED OVER THE POP ARTICLE LAST OCTOBER 28. MANY OBSERVERS BELIEVE ALI MURTOPO, WHOSE "OPSUS" ORGANIZATION CONTROLLED THE DISGRACED POP, IS THE REAL DEFENDENT IN THE POP AFFAIR, AND THAT THE TRIAL IS ANOTHER SIGN THAT SUHARTO MAY STILL BE DISPLEASED WITH MURTOPO. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 00701 170719Z

2. AS REPORTED REFAIR, SUHARTO ANGRILY DENIED THE POP ARTICLE (WHICH SAID HE WAS THE SON OF A NOBLEMAN AND RELATED TO THE SULTANATE OF YOGJAKARTA)AS A SUB-VERSIVE ATTACK ON HIS PRESIDENCY AND NATIONAL STABILITY. THE FACT THAT POP WAS OWNED BY MURTOPO'S OPSUS AND THAT SUHARTO NOTED THE OPSUS CONNECTION IN HIS EMOTIONAL ATTACK ON THE ARTICLE, LED TO SPECULATION THAT THE PRESIDENT AND OTHERS WERE USING THE INCIDENT AS A WARNING TO MURTOPO TO CURB HIS CONTROVERSIAL ACTIVITIES. THIS HYPOTHESIS, THOUGH HARDLY PROVED, WAS REINFORCED WHEN SUHARTO'S FAMILY HIRED TASRIF--THE LAWYER WHO BRILLIANTLY BUT UNSUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED JANUARY 15 DETAINEE HARIMAN SIREGAR--TO BRING ANOTHER, A PRIVATE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE OPSUS-CONTROLLED POP. MANY INTERPRETED THIS AS ANOTHER REBUKE BY SUHARTO AGAINST OPSUS AND MURTOPO, WHO ARE, IMPLICITLY, THE PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS OF SIREGAR AND THE OTHER JANUARY 15 DETAINEES).

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S CHOICE OF JANUARY 15, THE ANNI-VERSARY OF THE JAKARTA RIOTS, FOR OPENING THE TRIAL AGAINST POP'S EDITOR, IS ANOTHER COINCIDENCE, WHICH SURELY HAS POLITICAL MEANING. PERHAPS IT MERELY SYMBOLIZES THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO DEAL FIRMLY WITH ALL ACTS THAT DISCREDIT THE GOVERNMENT OR THE PRESIDENT. OTHERS ARGUE THAT THE ASSOCIATION OF THE POP TRIAL WITH THE JANUARY RIOTS, IN WHICH MURTOPO WAS ONE OF THE PROTAGONISTS, IS PART OF A CONTINUING ANTI-MURTOPO CAMPAIGN. (SEE ALSO REF B FOR INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GENERAL YOGA'S COMMENTS TENDING TO MINIMIZE MURTOPO'S POSITION).

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT MURTOPO'S ARCH-ENEMY, GENERAL SUMITRO, WHO WAS THE BIGGEST LOSER IN THE JANUARY AFFAIR, MAY BE UNDERGOING A SLOW PROCESS OF REHABILITATION. FOR EXAMPLE, SUHARTO RECENTLY HONORED SUMITRO BY ATTENDING HIS DAUGHTER'S WEDDING AND BY GIVING THE BRIDE AWAY(REPORTEDLY SUHARTO ASKED SUMITRO IF HE COULD DO THIS). THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKARTA 00701 170719Z

WAS A GESTURE OF UNDOUBTED POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. ANOTHER SIGN OF A POSSIBLE SUMITRO RESURRECTION ARE REPORTS-- STILL UNCONFIRMED--THAT SUHARTO WANTS THE EX DEPUTY DEFENSE AND KOPKAMTIB CHIEF TO RETURN TO PUBLIC LIFE, THOUGH IN A REDUCED CAPACITY, AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY COUNCIL. NEWSOM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DEFAMATION, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART00701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750018-0444
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750143/aaaablmz.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA A-187, 75 10/6/74, 75 JAKARTA 003
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIAL OF "POP" MAGAZINE EDITOR FOR CRIMINAL LIBEL OF SUHARTO OPENS
TAGS: PINT, ID, (SUHARTO), (HANITIO, REY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006